

gency and six months thereafter: *Provided further*, That any person appointed as an officer in the Army of the United States under the provisions of this Act shall receive the same pay and allowances and be entitled to the same rights, privileges, and benefits as members of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the same grade and length of active service: *And provided further*, That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the appointment of officers in the various components of the Army of the United States in accordance with existing laws.

Pay, allowances, etc.

Appointment under existing laws.

Approved, September 22, 1941.

[CHAPTER 415]

AN ACT

Authorizing the transfer of land owned by the United States back to the Spring Park Club, of Richfield Springs, New York.

September 24, 1941
[H. R. 2381]
[Public Law 253]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to correct the description of the land conveyed to the United States for a post-office site at Richfield Springs, New York, which included a one foot strip of land along the easterly side thereof for which a deduction was made in the contract price paid by the United States, the Federal Works Administrator be, and is hereby, authorized to convey by the usual quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the Government to the owners of the land abutting the easterly side of the post-office site at Richfield Springs, New York, the following-described piece or parcel of land forming a part of said post-office site:

Richfield Springs,
N. Y.
Conveyance of certain land at.

Lying and being in Richfield Springs, County of Otsego, State of New York, and described as follows:

Description.

Beginning at a point in the southerly side of Main Street, said point being the northeast corner of the premises conveyed by the Spring Park Club, Incorporated, to the United States by deed dated May 31, 1939, recorded June 1, 1939, among the land records of Otsego County, in Liber 388 of Deeds, at page 265; running thence in a westwardly direction along the southerly side of Main Street a distance of one foot to a point; thence in a southwardly direction a distance of one hundred and seventy-two feet to a point in the northerly side of land now or formerly of the Spring Park Club, Incorporated; thence in an eastwardly direction to a distance of one foot to a point being the southeast corner of lands conveyed to the United States by the aforesaid deed from the Spring Park Club, Incorporated; thence in a northwardly direction a distance of one hundred and seventy-two feet to the point or place of beginning, as shown on "Topographical Survey of Post Office site at Richfield Springs, New York, made by William Oehrle, dated March 5, 1938, corrected April 23, 1938", the original of which is on file in the Public Buildings Administration of the Federal Works Agency.

Approved, September 24, 1941.

[CHAPTER 416]

AN ACT

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the registry of pursers and surgeons as staff officers on vessels of the United States, and for other purposes", approved August 1, 1939.

September 24, 1941
[H. R. 3864]
[Public Law 254]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the registry of pursers and surgeons as staff officers on vessels of the United States, and for

Merchant marine.

46 U. S. C. § 242.

Registry of pursers
and surgeons as staff
officers.

Staff department.

Medical division.

Purser's division.

Citizenship require-
ment.

other purposes", approved August 1, 1939 (Public, Numbered 251, Seventy-sixth Congress; 53 Stat. 1145), is amended to read as follows:

"That there shall be registered staff officers in the United States merchant marine in the following grades: (1) Chief purser, (2) purser, (3) senior assistant purser, (4) junior assistant purser, (5) surgeon. The Secretary of Commerce (in this Act called the Secretary) shall register, and issue certificates of registry to, qualified individuals applying for registry in such grades, as hereinafter provided, and every such individual when so registered and serving in the staff department on a vessel of the United States shall rank as a staff officer on such vessel. Officers registered under the provisions of this Act and pursers' clerks and such persons as may be assigned to the senior registered surgeon shall constitute a separate and independent department on vessels of the United States to be known as the staff department. Such staff department shall be composed of a medical division and a purser's division. The medical division shall be under the charge of the senior registered surgeon on such vessel, who shall be responsible solely to the master. The purser's division shall be under the charge of the senior registered purser on such vessel, who shall be responsible solely to the master. On oceangoing vessels licensed to carry more than one hundred passengers, such officer in charge of the purser's division of the staff department shall be a registered chief purser; and whenever more than three persons are employed in the purser's division of the staff department on such vessels, there shall be a minimum of one registered senior assistant purser and one registered junior assistant purser in such purser's division of that staff department. No person shall be eligible for registry as a staff officer under the provisions of this Act who is not a citizen of the United States."

Approved, September 24, 1941.

[CHAPTER 417]

AN ACT

Relating to the manning of vessels.

September 24, 1941
[H. R. 4446]
[Public Law 255]

Manning of vessels.
49 Stat. 1930.
46 U. S. C. § 672 (a).
Ante, p. 579.

Emergency employ-
ment of certain able
seamen.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the provisions of section 13 (a) of the Act of March 4, 1915, as amended (U. S. C., 1934 edition, Supp. V., title 46, sec. 672 (a)), during the emergency declared by the President on May 27, 1941, to exist, but not after June 30, 1943, the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to any vessel or any group of vessels or any industry and upon a finding, after investigation, that qualified able seamen are not available in sufficient numbers to man such vessels as required by said section, may, in his discretion, allow seamen, examined and rated able seamen under said section after having served on deck twelve months at sea or on the Great Lakes, to compose not more than one-half of the number of able seamen required by such section to be shipped or employed upon any vessel, for such period or periods as he deems necessary and as he may by regulation or order prescribe.

Approved, September 24, 1941.